



County of San Bernardino • Department of Public Health  
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES  
385 N. Arrowhead Ave. • San Bernardino, CA 92415-0160  
(909) 387-3171

<http://www.sbcounty.gov/dehs>

## Swimming Pools Impacted by Smoke and Ash

The following guidelines are recommended for the maintenance of pools impacted by smoke and ash contamination or fire damage. Do not allow use of the pool until the following steps have been completed.

1. Clean skimmer baskets of debris and skim water surface of pool with pool net to remove floating debris.
2. Brush sides and bottom of pool to loosen contaminants. Vacuum pool.
3. Backwash and clean filter.
4. Check pH and adjust to between 7.2 and 8.0.
5. Check free chlorine level and adjust to minimum of 2.0 ppm.
6. Ensure the recirculation system is operating properly by checking filter pressure and/or flow meter.
7. Due to the amount of smoke and ash in the air, these steps may need to be repeated after cleaning the filters.
8. Alternatively, a swimming pool service company may be contracted to clean the pool.

**Deck Cleaning:** Clean the pool deck and dispose of the debris with the rest of the solid waste. Don't hose down the deck to storm drains. You may spray lightly first to minimize dust and ashes from becoming airborne, then use a stiff brush or broom to sweep up and put in trash. A mop and bucket could also be used for clean up.

**Draining Pools:** Draining of pools is not recommended. If you must drain the pool, contact the stormwater program of your local jurisdiction for guidance. In general, pool water must be dechlorinated to 0.0 ppm chlorine and have a pH between 7.2 and 8.0 if it is drained.

**Mosquito Breeding:** Pools with standing water could breed mosquitoes. Please call the County of San Bernardino, Vector Control Program at (909) 388-4600 to inspect and apply an appropriate larvacide as necessary.

**Damaged Pool, Enclosure or Recirculation System:** Pools that have had damage to the recirculation system, the pool enclosure or the pool shell must contact the Plan Check Section of the Division of Environmental Health at (909) 387-0214 for evaluation.



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